

Mistaking the CEO for a Gigolo

Chapter 586

Just as she was deep in thought, Evan turned around and walked towards her. He stared down at her coldly.

“...Levant has been keeping tabs on you since a year ago!” His words seemed to have a deeper meaning.

Nicole felt a little confused and panicked.

Levant had been keeping tabs on her since a year ago?

How was that possible? Why would he do that?

“Were you and Levant involved in a romantic relationship with each other a year ago?”

Nicole looked absolutely flabbergasted. The memories of the past year jumped out at her, but try as she might, she couldn't remember where she had seen Levant at all.

Evan's eyes were cold as ice. When he spoke, his voice was hoarse. “After the breakup, Levant couldn't forget you, could he? Was that why he wanted to marry you so much?”

“...”

Nicole shook her head.

What relationship? What breakup? Those were the most preposterous rumors about herself she had ever heard.

Evan mistook her silence as a confession of guilt.

So this was why Nicole had been acting so distant towards him lately. She had something to hide and it probably had something to do with Levant.

Perhaps they had a past relationship with each other that Evan didn't know about.

And now, Nicole had fallen back in love with her ex!

If that was so—

What was Evan supposed to do?

Should he give up on her?

As soon as he thought of this, Evan felt as though his heart had fallen straight into an abyss. His breathing felt a little more erratic.

It would be very virtuous of him to give them his blessings, but it was just too difficult for Evan. He didn't think he would be able to do it.

Evan was a very possessive man. No matter what happened, she would be his!

Evan looked up at Nicole and clenched his fists. Without another word, he turned and walked away.

He needed to think—how could he handle this properly?

Evan had left so quietly that by the time Nicole snapped out of her daze and looked at him, he was already far in the distance. He cut a very lonesome figure indeed as he walked away.

Nicole thought back on his words. Had he developed some sort of misunderstanding regarding her relationship with Levant?

That was ridiculous. They had never been romantically involved at all.

What an absurd thing to say!

Hence, she needed to understand quickly why Levant had been stalking her for the past year.

It would be very easy to get this answer. All she needed to do was to find Levant himself and interrogate him.

Without hesitating, she turned and made her way to the man's place.

Levant was sitting in his study room, staring into thin air. Despairingly, he wondered when Nicole would be able to accept him into her life.

After all, she was now living in Sir Musgrave's estate and socializing with him on a daily basis. Surrounded by all that wealth, would she suddenly undergo a change of character and decide to...

At that moment, Nicole entered his room, shocking Levant out of his reverie. Immediately, he stood up and wiped the woeful look off his face.

Plastering a blinding smile onto his face, he said, "Nicole, I've been very busy with work lately, so I haven't been able to come and visit you. Have the children and yourself gotten used to that place?"

Gotten used to that place?

Sure, Daphne had managed to get the better of Nicole and the kids a few times.

However, Nicole believed that the kids would be able to pay the devil back for her 'kindness' two or more times over.

Hence, she couldn't be bothered to bring this up to Levant.

A more important question was at hand.

She smiled back at him. "Yes, it's very nice there. I'm enjoying myself very much."

"That's great! Treat this place like your home. After all, it's going to be your home in a few years anyway."

"..."

Nicole understood the deeper meaning behind his words.

But she would never get together with him! This house would never truly be hers.

She coughed uneasily and went straight to the point immediately. "Levant, do you remember if we met each other somewhere a year ago?"

Levant gazed at her and shook his head in deep thought.

"What a strange question! I don't remember meeting you a year ago."

Nicole frowned, feeling very confused. Since they hadn't even met each other a year ago, how would Evan have arrived at his conclusion that Levant had started keeping tabs on her a year ago?

Was Evan simply wrong, or was Levant hiding a huge secret from her?

Nicole shot a glance at Levant, who was sipping anxiously from a teacup, deliberately avoiding her eyes. Evidently, there was something he was hiding from her.

However, since he was so reluctant to say it, there was no point in her pursuing the matter.

After making some small talk with each other, Nicole made up a lame excuse of having to return to her kids and left hurriedly.

As he watched her leave, Levant eyes darkened a little.

A year ago, he had in fact met her. When he found her, Levant had wanted to bring her back with him to the Musgrave Estate.

It would have been a pleasant surprise for Sir Musgrave!

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However, when he realized the real reason behind Sir Musgrave's desperate search for Nicole, Levant changed his mind.

He would never let anyone threaten his position as the heir to the Musgrave dukedom.

However, she didn't necessarily have to be a threat to him. Levant decided that he needed to speed things up between them a little.

...

Nicole returned to her house, lost in her thoughts. Just as she stepped into the courtyard, she spotted all four of her children gathered around in a circle, whispering mysteriously to each other.

They seemed to be plotting something big.

"Hey, you lot! What do you guys want for dinner?"

Her sudden presence made all the children startle in fright.

Nina looked at her, trying to recover from her shock. "Mommy, we're having a meeting about something very important!"

"Mommy, our revenge plans are nearly complete! We'll be able to push them out very soon. When the time comes, we can finally take our revenge!"

Nicole understood the situation immediately. Her kids were still trying to come up with ways to get back at Daphne.

"Well then, Mommy will leave you guys to it. I'll go see what we can make for dinner tonight!"

“Mommy, I think you should prepare a feast to encourage us.”

Hearing this, Nicole felt a little startled.

If these words had come out of Maya’s mouth, it would have been perfectly reasonable. However, what shocked Nicole was the fact that Kyle had been the one suggesting this.

She turned around to stare at him, before shifting her gaze to Maya, whose eyes were blinking like glittering stars.

Nicole’s shocked gaze made Maya feel a little perturbed. She looked back at her mother, confused.

I wasn’t the one who brought up the idea of a feast! Why are you looking at me like that?

Besides, no matter how much I like to eat, my mouth is bound to get tired sometimes, right? Why can’t Kyle get hungry at times too?

Why are Mommy’s eyes shifting around so rapidly as she glances from one of us to the other?

After she confirmed that Kyle had really been the one to say that, Nicole looked at her son and asked, “Kyle, is there anything you want to eat? Mommy will make it for you.”

Kyle started rattling off a list of food, but all of them were Maya’s favorites.

Ever since Maya destroyed Nina’s clothes a while back, all her snacks had been confiscated by the latter. Because she was so hungry, Kyle had even seen Maya doodling a biscuit on paper before tearing off the drawing and stuffing it into her mouth to stave off her hunger pangs.

Feeling sorry for his sister, he decided to let her feast herself for once to make up for the past few weeks.

As she listened to Kyle’s list, Maya’s eyes widened with surprise.

What a coincidence! Everything Kyle wanted to eat was on her list of favorite foods.

When her son finished speaking, Nicole realized immediately that he intended the feast to be for Maya's enjoyment.

She was pleasantly surprised. This boy was a nice brother who knew how to spoil his younger sister.

Kyle was a real tsundere. Whoever married him in the future was bound to lead a very happy life indeed.

"Alright. Mommy will make it for you right-away."

Kyle nodded.

Maya blew a raspberry. She walked over to Kyle and said cheerily, "Kyle, you're so nice to me! I like you."

"..."

This sudden declaration of love made Kyle feel a little embarrassed. A ghost of a smile appeared on his face, which normally assumed a cold expression.

Nina felt a little jealous. She turned to look at Juan and said, "Juan, you're my older brother too. Can't you treat me well?"

"Sure I can! What do you want to eat? I'll get Mommy to make it for you."

Nina pouted grumpily. Unlike Maya, she didn't fancy stuffing herself with food all day like a glutton.

"No thanks. If I eat like Maya the pig, I'll grow so fat that I won't be pretty anymore. I want..."

She rolled her eyes at Maya and thought deeply about what she wanted.

How dare she call me a pig, and an ugly one at that? Maya's face contorted with rage. She turned and walked into her room, emerging with a hammer in her hand. She stalked up to Nina and waved the hammer in her face.

“If you call me that again, I’ll bash your head in with this hammer!”

Nina was stunned speechless.

Wow! Had the Maya Punch become Maya’s Hammer now? More accurately, it was Maya’s Steel Hammer...

Had Maya kept this hammer around in preparation to go up against her one day?

If Maya really smashed this thing against her head, the consequences would be dire! An expression of fear flashed across Nina’s face.

Alright, little sister! I’ll back off for now.

“Um, I—I still have a few dummies that I haven’t put makeup on yet. I’ll go do that for them now.” As soon as she finished speaking, Nina turned and fled.

As she watched Nina run off in fear, Maya smiled with self-satisfaction.

As much as Nina was blunt and straightforward, Maya knew that she had a horrible fear of being beaten up.

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With Maya’s Hammer to aid her, Maya doubted that anyone would make fun of her behind her back now.

Juan and Kyle looked at her disapprovingly. “Don’t you use it to hit people for real!” They warned, “Or they might get hurt. Even worse, they could end up in the hospital with life-threatening injuries.”

Maya glanced at them before stealing a quick glance in the direction of Nina's room. With a small laugh, she tore off a piece of the hamper in her hand and stuffed it into her mouth.

"What the—"

The hamper was made of bread!

How did it look so much like the real thing? This was quite amazing.

"Maya, where did you get this from?"

Maya looked at them mysteriously and said in a low voice, "Daddy gave this to me! Don't the both of you dare tell Nina about this! He even gave me a few more."

Daddy?

Hmm...Daddy seemed to be a little biased.

Well—at least this would stop Nina from riling up her sister with those offending comments again in the near future.

Nicole prepared an entire table of delicious dishes. The four children gobbled up the food like starved baby wolves.

"Mommy, you make the best food! The food they make at the Musgrave Estate tastes pretty bland to me."

"If you like my cooking so much, Mommy will cook for you every day."

The four children nodded happily.

Maya sighed unhappily. "Ms. Sheila went back to help Uncle Davin with his work. She would have enjoyed your cooking if she were here!"

Nicole laughed silently to herself. Going back to help Davin Seet with his work? As if!

It was more likely that she had returned to keep a closer eye on him.

She was probably afraid that Davin might start flirting around with other girls in her absence.

However, it was good that Sheila had returned. Both Davin and the Seet Group needed an assistant urgently.

After dinner, the four children started to roll out their plans.

They dragged their props to the wall surrounding Daphne's property, where they squatted down to wait.

Maya looked at the Bluetooth transmitter in Juan's hand and asked anxiously, "Juan, do you think that bad woman could recognize my voice?"

"No. This transmitter has a voice-altering function. Even if Mommy and Daddy were to listen to this, they wouldn't be able to tell that it's you."

Maya stuck out her tongue, feeling a little more assured.

If the bad woman realized that it was Maya's voice cursing her out, she might give the little one a horrible beating.

"Let's wait to watch the show!"

Juan put on a dark coat and snuck into the courtyard, as quiet as a mouse. He spotted an inconspicuous location and hid the Bluetooth device there before sneaking back out of the property.

He returned to the other children and gave them a thumbs-up sign to signal that all had gone well.

Nina and Maya turned to look at each other as they flicked the 'on' switch on the Bluetooth device, a smile appearing on their faces.

At the present moment, Daphne was sitting in her room, awaiting the good news.

The two maids whom she had sent to torment Nicole and the little beastlings had promised to stick those children into sacks and take them to her tonight.

She glanced at the clock. It was just about time.

If they managed to stick that wretched Nicole into a sack as well, that would be most wonderful.

She had to discipline that family of losers and take her rage out on them!

Here, a smile appeared on her face. Just as she raised her teacup to her lips, she suddenly heard someone calling her name from outside. “Daphne—”

Daphne froze in shock, wondering if she had heard wrongly. The voice belonged to that of a middle-aged woman, but aside from Lady Musgrave, there wasn’t another woman in the estate who dared to address her by her first name.

She ignored it and took another sip from her teacup.

“Daphne—Daphne—” The voice called again, this time even more loudly.

She turned to look at the maid who was tidying up the table next to her. “Did you hear that?”

The maid looked at her. “I think someone is calling you from the outside.”

So she hadn’t dreamt that up.

Daphne got up and arrived in her courtyard.

“Daphne—”

“Who’s that? Who’s calling me?”

The four children were watching her gleefully through a crack in the wall. When they saw Daphne come out of the house, they quickly activated another function in the Bluetooth speaker...

“Dastardly Daphne—”

“Deplorable Daphne—”

“Diabolical Daphne—”

“Disagreeable Daphne—”

Daphne looked around the courtyard, but there was nobody in sight. She roared angrily, “Who the hell is that? Come out and face me if you dare!”

Maya shook with silent laughter. She pressed the button on the device, and the mysterious voice sounded again—

“Daphne’s rotten heart will be sliced into pieces and chopped into tiny shreds! Add some pepper to it and—tada! Skewered rotten heart for dinner~”

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Daphne was furious. Heaving angrily, she screamed, “Skewered my foot! You jerk, you tortoise-head loser! Come out right now!”

“ ... ”

The maids looked at each other in confusion. There was no one in the courtyard, so where had the mysterious voice come from?

With a murderous look on her face, Daphne ordered the maids to search the entire courtyard. However, the search turned up empty.

“Useless! The person is probably hiding out in the courtyard right now. Find him right now and make sure he turns up in front of me! I don’t care if you dig up the entire courtyard.”

As the maids searched around the courtyard for the mysterious intruder, Juan and Kyle snuck quietly into Daphne’s bathroom.

Maya and Nina felt a little worried. They wondered if they could succeed on this second mission.

The maids searched as hard as they possibly could, but the search returned nothing.

Daphne was beside herself with rage. She decided to change the team of security guards first thing tomorrow morning. This team was too incompetent.

After this, they didn’t hear the voice anymore. Daphne returned to her room.

She sat on her bed for a while, massaging her forehead. She felt as though her head had swelled to twice its size. Her blood circulation seemed pretty weak, too.

No, this wouldn’t do. She decided to take a bath to get rid of her headache before she went to sleep.

She got up and went into the bathroom. When the two boys saw her entering, they quickly hid more deeply in a corner, praying that she wouldn’t discover them.

Daphne took off her clothes. When the bathtub filled up completely with water, she lowered herself into it with a sigh of satisfaction. She shut her eyes, enjoying the pleasant sensation of the water lapping against her skin.

Juan snickered quietly. He took out a bag of white powder from his pocket and snuck some of it into the bathtub.

Daphne, who was still soaking in the water, suddenly felt her skin get itchier and itchier.

She opened her eyes, only to see that her skin was completely red. Every inch of her skin was covered with red spots.

How could this be?

Daphne widened her eyes in shock, realizing that there was something wrong with the water.

But she had just filled the bathtub with water! How could there be a problem with it?

Just as she was panicking over it, the two boys climbed onto the platform behind her and forced her head into the water.

Immediately, Daphne felt as though her face was on fire. Her first thought was, *Is this going to ruin my looks?*

With her head under the water, she wanted to scream, but she wasn't able to. She struggled to get her head out of the water with all her might.

"Her face must be completely ruined by now."

Hearing this, Juan felt very satisfied.

"Disgusting woman! She deserves this for everything she has done. Remember this—if you ever dare to hit any of us again, I'll drag you to hell!"

With that, the two of them released Daphne's head. The woman removed her head from the water and spluttered violently.

"Help, help—somebody, help—"

Hearing her screams, the maids ran into her room. However, Daphne had locked the bathroom door, so they weren't able to enter and save her.

Daphne had to climb out of the bathtub and put on her pajamas before opening the door for them, all the while gritting her teeth in pain.

By then, Juan and Kyle had already climbed out of the window and escaped to freedom.

Daphne recalled the voice of the two boys she had just heard. They definitely belonged to Juan and Kyle.

The mysterious voice she had heard tonight, as well as the two voices who had cursed her out in her own bathroom, definitely had something to do with those wretched children!

Just you wait! Daphne swore that she was going to tear them apart from limb to limb.

The doctor of the estate hurried over and put her on an IV drip. He instructed Daphne to take lots of bed rest, watch her diet and ensure that she didn't get exposed to too much wind. The substance that had been poured into the bathwater in huge amounts was a highly corrosive one. If Daphne didn't follow his instructions, her skin might never recover—especially the wounds on her face.

"What about my face?" Daphne asked anxiously, as though she was asking about her own life.

If this face of hers was ruined, her future prospects would take a dramatic hit.

Hector, who was as handsome as a man could get, whose features looked as though they were crafted by angels, would want nothing to do with her in the future.

As the doctor gazed at her red face, he told her in a guarded tone that, no matter how hard he tried, her skin would never recover, and it was going to leave scars.

In actual fact, it was worse—she might even be disfigured. Taking her feelings into consideration, the doctor tried to soften the blow.

Daphne lay on the bed. Her eyes, which had been full of fear up till now, suddenly flashed with a sudden savageness. She ordered her maids to bring Lady Musgrave over.

When the latter saw how badly injured she was, her heart broke.

She had always regarded this niece of hers as her biological daughter.

"Daphne, my dear, what happened?"

Daphne reached out to grab Lady Musgrave's hand. She burst into tears and cried out, "Aunt Portia, you have to take revenge for me! It was Nicole Lane and those horrible kids of hers who did this to me! Look what they've done to me!"

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When she recalled that Daphne had played those dirty tricks on Nicole Lane and the children on her orders, Lady Musgrave felt even more sorry for her.

“Daphne, don’t worry! I’ll make them pay for this!”

As soon as she finished speaking, she turned on her heels and walked out of Daphne’s residence.

When Nicole saw her four children return in high spirits, she knew immediately that they had completed their revenge plan successfully and taught that wicked woman a good lesson.

Just as she was about to praise them, she heard an urgent knock on the door.

“Who’s that?”

It was already so late. Who could that be?

Nicole opened the door to see John standing outside, his expression looking rather panicked.

After receiving the orders from Evan, John had been watching over the children silently as they carried out their revenge plan against Daphne.

When he heard that they were going to execute their plans tonight, he hid himself in a corner and observed. He left the scene a little later, and found out that Lady Musgrave was on her way to seek revenge.

“John! What is it?”

“Mrs. Seet, you’d better take the kids and hide somewhere immediately! Lady Musgrave is intent on seeking revenge for her niece, and she’s coming almost immediately!”

Lady Musgrave.

Nicole felt her heart sink. She didn't think Lady Musgrave would've found out so quickly. These children must have been too careless and let something slip in their carelessness.

Trouble was coming their way.

Aside from Sir Musgrave, his wife was the most important person around in this estate. If she insisted on avenging Daphne, Nicole and her children were going to suffer greatly.

"Mommy, it was Daphne who bullied us first! All we did was take revenge. What's there to be afraid of?"

Hearing Nina's indignant argument, Nicole couldn't help but sigh.

Lady Musgrave would never hear them out. She was Daphne's aunt, and she was going to take her side for sure.

Nicole had met Lady Musgrave a few times before, and she knew that the older woman's loyalties lay with her blood relatives rather than cold logic. Besides, she had always hated Nicole and the kids, and she wouldn't pass up such a good opportunity to torture them.

"Mommy, we were the ones who did this. This has nothing to do with you! When the time comes, just hand us over to her..."

"Shut up!"

No mother would sell out her own children like this. She certainly wasn't going to submit her children to Lady Musgrave's cruelty.

These four children were her life. She had to protect them.

"Let Mommy think. Mommy will be able to come up with something."

Just as she was wracking her brains to think of an idea, Maya suddenly said, "We can go hide out in that grandpa's residence, can't we?"

Nicole and the three other children turned to look at her instantly.

She was right. That grandpa had announced that nobody other than him was allowed to enter his residence.

Perhaps Lady Musgrave would be too scared to enter too. They would be safe then, wouldn't they?

Maya could be so clever sometimes.

"Mommy, that's the only place we can go now! It's the safest place in the entire estate!"

"Exactly! Mommy, let's not hesitate anymore. We should leave now."

Nicole nodded. Although John didn't know where they were referring to, he had no choice but to send them over there right now.

"Mommy, look! That old witch is bringing people over to our residence!"

Maya pointed to the distance. Under the fluorescent lights of the corridor, she could see Lady Musgrave heading in the direction of their house with a suite of maids and bodyguards in tow.

Looking at the number of people around her, Nicole knew she meant business. If she caught them while she was still so enraged, Lady Musgrave would punish them horribly to set things right for Daphne.

Nicole sighed with relief. Thank goodness they chose the little path that led down into the garden. Otherwise, they would have bumped right into the duchess.

"Let's hurry and go. Once she realizes that there's no one in the house, she'll send people to search for us all over the estate."

Just as Juan finished speaking, John suddenly recalled those extra bodyguards Evan had gifted them.

"Please leave first! I have to make a detour first. When they realize that you aren't here, they'll go and look for Mr. Seet."

“Okay!”

After John left, Nicole and the four children quickly made their way to the only safe refuge they knew.

When Lady Musgrave arrived at their residence, she found it to be completely empty.

“Where are they? They must have found somewhere to hide. Start looking for them right now!”

“Yes, Ma’am.”

The maids went through all the rooms, turning them inside out as they looked in every nook and cranny. However, there was nobody in the house at all.

Lady Musgrave’s face clouded over with rage. She made for the residence of the bodyguards that Nicole Lane had brought along with her.